

Maria Pietronilla Penna

Dipartimento di Pedagogia, Psicologia e Filosofia, UNICA



Curriculum

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

1984 – Degree course in Psychology at “La Sapienza” University in Rome with an experimental thesis about visual perception processes.

1984 – 1990 Collaboration at “La Sapienza” University in Rome, Department of Psychology with many experimental research and studies about perceptive processes (Proff. F.S.Marucci, E.Pessa) and about hypnosis (Prof.V.DE Pascalis)

1990 – 1993 Collaboration with “Teoria e Sistemi di Intelligenza Artificiale” chair, with the supervision of Prof. Eliano Penna.

1992 – 1993 Specialization Course in “Cognitive Psychology and Neural Networks”

1993 – International Summer Course about “Human Science Research: A Systemic Approach to Disciplined Inquiry”, at Castel Ivano (TN), from Saybrook Institute di S.Francisco, California

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ACADEMIC CAREER

1997 – 2002 Professor with a contract of General Psychology at “Facoltà di Scienze della Formazione” University of Cagliari

2001 Qualification achievement in the evaluation as adjunct professor in the scientific-disciplinary area M10A (General Psychology) at “Facoltà di Scienze della Formazione” University of Cagliari, with D.R. published in the G.U. – 4[^]special series – n.55 of 14/7/2000.

2002 – 2006 Associate professor in the scientific-disciplinary area M10A (General Psychology) at “Facoltà di Scienze della Formazione”

2006 Full professor in the scientific-disciplinary area M10A (General Psychology) at “Facoltà di Scienze della Formazione” University of Cagliari

SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

Prof. Penna research activity has been focused on artificial intelligence, neural network models, systems theory, cognitive psychology, psychophysiology, psychology of communication, man-machine interfaces, usability assessment, e-learning design.

In particular, as regards cognitive psychology, she dealt with topics such as perception, memory, knowledge representation, both through laboratory experiments and theoretical formulation of new cognitive processes models.

Her whole research activity can be subdivided into twelve principal categories:

- 1) memory, perception and mental representations
- 2) connectionist models of cognitive processing;
- 3) iconic memory;
- 4) the role of local features in pattern perception, mostly in the case of ambiguous pictures;
- 5) perceptive field structuring in homogeneous stimulation areas;
- 6) spatial memory;
- 7) movement perception;
- 8) problem solving and learning processes in school age children;
- 9) e-learning tools usability;
- 10) e-learning tools design;
- 11) text comprehension in school children;
- 12) communication processes.
- 13) E-learning and usability

Currently, she is the Principal Investigator of a National research project, funded by European Union – NextGeneration EU, “*To Be Present: parental phubbing implications on children's lives. How can parents' smartphone overuse decrease? An awareness-raising project on the risks of phubbing and on the importance of reciprocity in parental relations*”.

MAIN TEACHING ACTIVITIES

2024 Professor of Decision-making processes and problem solving in the forensic field in the LM51 Master's Degree Course, Department of Pedagogy, Psychology and Philosophy, University of Cagliari.

From 2021 Professor of Applied Cognitive Psychology in the Master's Degree Course LM51, Department of Pedagogy, Psychology and Philosophy, University of Cagliari.

2013-2023 Professor of General Psychology in the Psychological Sciences and Techniques course, Department of Pedagogy, Psychology and Philosophy, University of Cagliari.

2008 – 2009 Full professor of General Psychology and Learning Psychology, Facoltà di Scienze della Formazione, University of Cagliari

2007 – 2008 Full professor of General Psychology and Linguistic Psychology and Research Methods in General Psychology, Facoltà di Scienze della Formazione and Facoltà di Medicina e Chirurgia, University of Cagliari

2007 – 2008 Professor of General Psychology at the training and specialization school for teachers (SSIS), University of Cagliari

2006 – 2007 Full professor of General Psychology and Developmental Psychology, Facoltà di Scienze della Formazione and Facoltà di Medicina e Chirurgia,, University of Cagliari

2005 – 2006 Associate professor of Development Psychology and General Psychology, Facoltà di Scienze della Formazione and Facoltà di Medicina e Chirurgia, University of Cagliari

2004 – 2005 Associate professor of General Psychology and Development Psychology, Facoltà di Scienze della Formazione, University of Cagliari

2004 -2005 Professor of General Psychology, Facoltà di Lingue e Comunicazione, University of Cagliari

2003 – 2004 Associate professor of General Psychology, Facoltà di Scienze della Formazione, University of Cagliari

2002- 2003 Professor of Cognitive Psychology, Facoltà di Lettere e Filosofia, LUMSA University, Rome

2002- 2003 Professor of Multimedia Computer Science, Facoltà di Ingegneria, Università of Ancona.

2003 Professor of Communication Psychology, course “Nurse as Communicator”, ASL n. 10 of Palmi (RC)

FURTHER ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

1992- 2002 “La Sapienza” University, Psychology Degree Course:

Member of board of examiners “Teorie e Sistemi di Intelligenza Artificiale” as research fellow.

1996- 1998 Member of board of examiners of “General Psychology”

1992- 1996 Member of board of examiners of “Elementi di Programmazione ed Elaborazione Automatica dei Dati”

1984- 1992 Member of board of examiners of “General Psychology II”

1990- 1992 Technician in the laboratory of “Psicofisiologia”, Department of Psychology

1993- 1994 Terza Università of Roma, Facoltà di Lettere e Filosofia:

Member of board of examiners of General Psychology, Corso di Laurea in Scienze della Formazione

1993- 2002 Libera Università degli Studi “M.S.S.Assunta” of Roma, Facoltà di Lettere e Filosofia:

MEMBERSHIP IN ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEES

– Full associate of AIP (Associazione Italiana di Psicologia)

– Full associate of Association pour la Recherche Cognitive (Paris)

– Full associate of Associazione Italiana per la Ricerca sui Sistemi

– Member of the Organizational Committee of the Third Systems Science European Congress, Rome, 1-4 October, 1996

– Member of the Organizational Committee of the First Systems Science Italian Congress, Milan, 24-26 June, 1998

– Member of the Organizational Committee of the Second Systems Science Italian, Castel Ivano (Trento), 9-10 November 2001

- Member of the Organizational Committee of the Third Systems Science Italian, Castel Ivano (Trento), 7-9 October 2004
- Member of Referee Committee of the journal “Spatial Vision”